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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/633,516	08/05/2003	Ming-Hsien Chou	CHOU3067D/EM	5428
23364	7590	03/10/2004	EXAMINER	
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC 625 SLATERS LANE FOURTH FLOOR ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			NGUYEN, CHAU N	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2831		

DATE MAILED: 03/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/633,516	CHOU ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Chau N Nguyen	2831

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Specification***

1. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: the specification does not provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter of "the first plastic material being different from the second plastic material" as claimed in claim 5.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, please change "insulated" to --insulating--.

Claim 1, lines 10-11, the recitation of "wherein means of cutting is employed to cut the lamination into a plurality of first connectors with predetermined size" is vague and indefinite because the cutting means is not a part

of a pliable connector. It is just a tool being used to cut the pliable connector into a plurality of connectors.

Claim 5, line 2, change "being" to --respectively, wherein the second plastic material is--.

Claim 5, line 3, delete "respectively".

Claims 2-4 are included in this rejection because of dependency.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamagishi (JP6-176629).

Yamagishi discloses a pliable connector comprising a plurality of metal conductor wires arranged as a plurality of parallel coplanar ones being equally spaced apart, a first insulating medium for embedding the conductor wires to form an insulating layer, wherein the spacing between any two adjacent conductor wires is not changed and either end of the insulating layer is open, and a second

insulating medium coated on both sides of the insulating layer to form a lamination with a predetermined thickness so as to possess a predetermined flexibility and strength (re claim 1). Yamagishi also discloses each of the first and second insulating media being formed of a first plastic material (re claim 4), the first plastic material being different from the second plastic material (re claim 5).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamagishi.

Yamagishi discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for cutting means being used to cut the lamination into a plurality of connectors. Although not specifically disclosed by Yamagishi, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use cutting means to cut the lamination (or the cable) of Yamagishi into a plurality of connectors for plural connecting purposes since using a cutting means to cut a flat cable into a plurality of small flat cables is known in the art.

8. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (Figure 5) in view of Yamagishi.

Figure 5 discloses the invention substantially as claimed including features recited in claims 2 and 3. Figure 5 does not disclose the connector (43) being a pliable connector as recited in claim 1. Yamagishi discloses a pliable connector comprising a plurality of metal conductor wires arranged as a plurality of parallel coplanar ones being equally spaced apart, a first insulating medium for embedding the conductor wires to form an insulating layer, wherein the spacing between any two adjacent conductor wires is not changed and either end of the insulating layer is open, and a second insulating medium coated on both sides of the insulating layer to form a lamination with a predetermined thickness so as to possess a predetermined flexibility and strength (re claim 1). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use the pliable connector taught by Yamagishi for the connector (43) of Figure 5 since the connector of Yamagishi is flexible and has high flame resistance.

*Communication*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chau N Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-1980. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext 31. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Chau N Nguyen  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2831